Mite Disease of Coconut

1969. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that several coconut trees have been infested with Mite attack;

(b) if so, the number of coconut trees attacked by the Mite all over the country; Statewise, and the financial losses therefrom; and

(c) what action Government have initiated to control the Mite attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State-wise estimated number of coconut trees attacked by the Mite is as under :

State	No. of coconut palms attacked (in lakhs)
Kerala	589.00
Karnataka	185.00
Tamil Nadu	211.96
Andhra Pradesh	48.00
Pondicherry	1.95

The financial losses are not estimated. However, the crop loss is estimated between 25-30%.

(c) The action taken by the Government to control eriophyid mite is given below :

(i) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs. 3.00 lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for developing bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures.

A bio-agent called "MYCOHIT" has been developed. This is being tested in the field for its efficacy;

(ii) Awareness campaigns/seminars/group discussions among farmers were organised by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;

(iii) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmental staff and farmers and developed Website to access information on mite on the net;

(iv) An amount of Rs. 142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite;

(v) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts in developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The committee has recommended holistic approach including improvement of nutrient status, use of botanical and bio-pesticides for managing mite affected coconut gardens.

The central assistance provided during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 through Coconut Development Board, to States for control of coconut mite is given below :—

State	Assistance provided (Rupees in Crores)
Kerala	30.09
Karnataka	8.90
Tamil Nadu	10.54
Andhra Pradesh	3.70